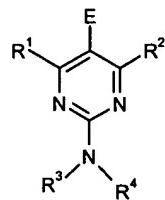


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (1):



Formula (1)

which comprises

- reacting a compound of formula $R^1\text{-CO-CH}_2\text{-E}$ with a compound of formula $R^2\text{-CHX}^1\text{X}^2$ in the presence of a compound of formula $R^3R^4\text{N-C(=NH)NH}_2$ and a catalyst, thereby to ~~form~~forming a dihydropyrimidine; and
- oxidising the dihydropyrimidine produced in step-a) to form the compound of Formula (1) wherein

R^1 is H or an alkyl group;

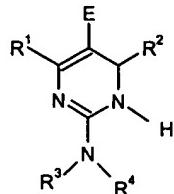
R^2 is H, or an alkyl or aryl group;

R^3 and R^4 are each independently H, alkyl, or aryl[[,]]; or R^3 and R^4 are linked to form, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, ~~to form~~a 5 to 7 membered heterocyclic ring;

E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group; and

X^1 and X^2 are each independently leaving groups[[,]]; or X^1 and X^2 together ~~represent~~are =O.

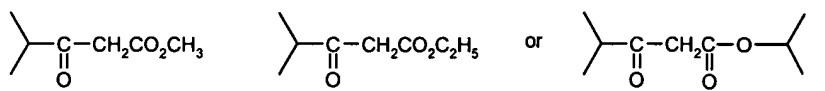
2. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the dihydropyrimidine is represented by the Formula (2a), and tautomers thereof:



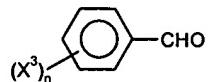
Formula (2a)

wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and E are as defined in claim 1.

3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the compound of formula $R^1\text{-CO-CH}_2\text{-E}$ is a compound of formulae:



4. (Currently Amended) A process according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the compound of formula $R^2\text{-CHX}^1\text{X}^2$ is a compound of formula:



wherein X^3 represents is halo, and n is 0 or 1-5, and preferably 4-fluorobenzaldehyde.

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the compound of formula $R^3R^4\text{N-C(=NH)NH}_2$ is guanidine or methylguanidine.

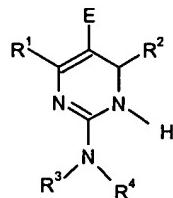
6. (Original) A process according to claim 5, wherein the compound of formula $R^3R^4\text{N-C(=NH)NH}_2$ is employed as a hydrochloride or sulfate salt.

7. (Currently Amended) A process according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the catalyst is a base.

8. (Original) A process according to claim 7, wherein the base is an alkali or alkaline earth metal carbonate or hydrogencarbonate.

9. (Currently Amended) A process according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the oxidising agent is manganese dioxide.

10. (Currently Amended) A compound of Formula (2a), and tautomers thereof:



Formula (2a)

wherein

R¹ is H or an alkyl group;

R² is H, or an alkyl, or aryl group;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently H, alkyl, or aryl[[,]]; provided that R³ and R⁴ are not both unsubstituted alkyl; and

E is an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group[[,]]; further provided that R¹ is not -CH₃ when R² is unsubstituted phenyl or o-nitrophenyl.

11. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 10, wherein R² represents is a phenyl group substituted bywith one or more halogens.

12. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 10-~~or 11~~, wherein at least one of R³ and R⁴ is H.

13. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 10-12~~, wherein R¹ represents-is isopropyl and R² represents-is 4-fluorophenyl.

14. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 10-13~~, wherein R³ is H or methyl and R⁴ is H.

15. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~anyone of claims 10 to 14~~, wherein E ~~represents~~is a group of formula -CO₂(C₁₋₄alkyl).

16. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (2a) and tautomers thereof:



Formula (2a)

which comprises

a) reacting a compound of formula R¹-CO-CH₂-E with a compound of formula R²-CHX¹X² in the presence of a compound of formula R³R⁴N-C(=NH)NH₂ and a catalyst, thereby ~~to~~ forming the compound of Formula (2a)

wherein

R¹ is an H or an alkyl group;

R² is an H, or an alkyl, or aryl group;

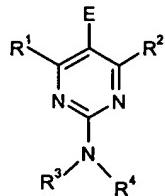
R³ and R⁴ are each independently H, alkyl, or aryl[[,]]; or R³ and R⁴ are linked to form, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, ~~to form~~ a 5 to 7 membered heterocyclic ring;

E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group; and X¹ and X² are each independently leaving groups[[,]]; or X¹ and X² together ~~represent~~are =O.

17. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 16, wherein R¹ ~~represents~~is isopropyl, R² ~~represents~~is 4-fluorophenyl, and R³ and R⁴ ~~are~~ each independently ~~represents~~-H or methyl.

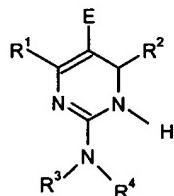
18. (Original) A process according to claim 17, wherein R³ is methyl and R⁴ is H.

19. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (1):



Formula (1)

which comprises oxidising a compound of Formula (2a):



Formula (2a)

wherein

R^1 is H or an alkyl group;

R^2 is an H, an alkyl, or aryl group;

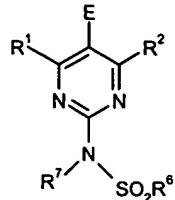
R^3 and R^4 are each independently H, alkyl, or aryl[[,]]; or R^3 and R^4 are linked to form, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, to form a 5 to 7 membered heterocyclic ring; and

E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group.

20. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 19, wherein R^1 represents is isopropyl, R^2 represents is 4-fluorophenyl, and R^3 and R^4 are each independently represents H or methyl.

21. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 19 or 20, wherein the oxidation employs manganese dioxide.

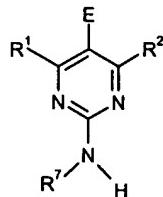
22. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (3):



Formula (3)

which comprises

- reacting a compound of formula $R^1\text{-CO-CH}_2\text{-E}$ with a compound of formula $R^2\text{-CHX}^1\text{X}^2$ in the presence of a compound of formula $R^7\text{HN-C(=NH)NH}_2$ and a catalyst, thereby to form forming a dihydropyrimidine;
- oxidising the dihydropyrimidine produced in step a) to form a compound of Formula (4)



Formula (4)

and

- reacting the compound of Formula (4) with a compound of formula $R^6\text{SO}_2\text{-X}^4$ to give a compound of Formula (3);

wherein

R^1, R^2, E, X^1 and X^2 are as defined in claim 1;

R^1 is H or an alkyl group;

R^2 is H, an alkyl, or aryl group;

E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group;

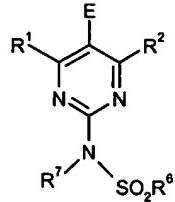
X^1 and X^2 are each independently leaving groups; or X^1 and X^2 together are =O;

R^6 represents is alkyl or aryl, preferably methyl;

R^7 is H, alkyl or aryl; and

X^4 represents is a leaving group, preferably Cl or Br.

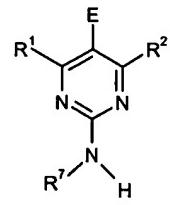
23. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (3):



Formula (3)

which comprises

- reacting a compound of formula $R^1\text{-CO-CH}_2\text{-E}$ with a compound of formula $R^2\text{-CHX}^1\text{X}^2$ in the presence of a compound of formula $R^7\text{HN-C(=NH)NH}_2$ and a catalyst, thereby to formforming a dihydropyrimidine comprising an exocyclic group formula -NHR^7 ;
- reacting the a compound of Formula (4)



Formula (4)

with a compound of formula $R^6\text{SO}_2\text{-X}^4$ to form a dihydropyrimidine comprising an exocyclic group formula $\text{-N}(R^7)\text{SO}_2R^6$;

- oxidising the dihydropyrimidine produced in step b) to form a compound of Formula (3); wherein

R^1 is H or an alkyl group;

R^2 is H, an alkyl, or aryl group;

E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group;

X^1 and X^2 are each independently leaving groups; or X^1 and X^2 together are =O;

R^1, R^2, E, X^1 and X^2 are as defined in claim 1;

R^6 represents is alkyl or aryl, preferably methyl;

R^7 is H, alkyl or aryl; and

X^4 represents is a leaving group, preferably Cl or Br.

24. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 22 or 23, wherein R¹ represents is isopropyl, R² represents is 4-fluorophenyl, X¹ and X² together represent are =O, R⁶ represents is methyl, E represents is a group of formula -CO₂(C₁₋₄alkyl), and R⁷ is H or methyl.

25. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (CH₃)₂CH-CO-CH₂-CO₂-C₃H₇.

26. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 25, of formula:

